

Listing of Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method for playing a wagering game via a gaming system including a display, a wager-input device, and a processor configured to execute instructions relating to the wagering game, the wagering game having a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the method comprising:
 - conducting a basic game having a randomly selected outcome generated via a random-number generator configured to output random numbers;
 - accepting a basic wager from the player to play a single play of the basic game via the wager-input device associated with the gaming system;
 - converting the monetary wager into an opportunity for a player to play the wagering game on the gaming system;
 - presenting a side-wager option to a player, the side-wager option permitting the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager to be eligible for the special multi-level progressive payout from the single play of the basic game;
 - contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage;
 - correlating the random number output by the random-number generator to a wagering-game outcome via the processor;
 - determining whether the wagering-game outcome corresponds to a predefined winning outcome or a losing outcome via the processor; and

in response to the player selecting the option to be eligible for the special multi-level progressive payout by making the side-wager separate from the basic wager, only crediting the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game and only crediting the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game.

2. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, further comprising only crediting the player a third progressive jackpot when a third randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game.
3. (Canceled)
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.
5. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the randomly selected outcome comprises a plurality of symbols.
6. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein each of the plurality of symbols is a card from a deck of playing cards.
7. (Original) The method of claim 5, wherein the wagering game is a slot machine and each of the plurality of symbols is a reel symbol.
8. (Currently Amended) A method for playing a wagering game on a gaming system including a display, a wager-input device, and a processor configured to execute instructions relating to the wagering game terminal, the wagering game having a basic payout and a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the method comprising:

receiving a basic wager from a player via the wager-input device to play a single play of the basic game;

presenting an option to the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager to be eligible for the progressive payout from the single play of the basic game;

converting the basic wager into an opportunity for a player to play the wagering game on the gaming system;

initiating the wagering game on the gaming system;

generating a random number using a random-number generator configured to output random numbers;

correlating the random number output by the random-number generator to a wagering-game outcome via the processor;

conducting a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate the wagering-game a randomly-selected outcome of the basic game;

displaying the plurality of symbols on the display;

contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage; and

in response to the player making the side-wager to be eligible for the progressive payout, only awarding the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game and only crediting the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game.

9. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the conducting step comprises choosing at least one of a plurality of paylines to play and choosing a wager amount for each of the plurality of paylines chosen.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9, wherein the presenting step only occurs if all of the plurality of paylines are chosen.

11. (Original) The method of claim 8, wherein the awarding step is performed by a controller in the gaming terminal.

12. (Previously Presented) A gaming system for playing a wagering game having a special multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot, the gaming system comprising

a gaming terminal having a basic wager input device for permitting a player to make a basic wager for playing a single play of a basic game having a randomly selected outcome, the gaming terminal having a side-wager input device for permitting the player to make a side-wager separate from the basic wager, the side-wager allowing a player to be eligible to win the special multi-level progressive payout from the single play of the basic game,

the gaming system contributing a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributing a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage, wherein, in response to activation of the side-wager input device, the gaming terminal only credits the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome is achieved in the single play of the basic game and the gaming terminal only credits the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome is achieved in the single play of the basic game.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The system of claim 12, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.

15. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the side-wager input device is a button or a key.
16. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the first and second randomly selected outcomes comprise a plurality of symbols.
17. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein each of the plurality of symbols is a card from a deck of playing cards.
18. (Original) The system of claim 16, wherein the gaming terminal is a slot machine and each of the plurality of symbols is a standard slot machine symbol.
19. (Original) The gaming system of claim 12, further comprising a plurality of gaming terminals for conducting wagering games, each of the plurality of gaming terminals having the side-wager input device.
20. (Original) The gaming system of claim 19, further comprising signage located above and coupled to the plurality of gaming terminals, the signage displaying the special payout and for receiving a signal from one of the plurality of gaming terminals that it is eligible to win a special payout.
21. (Original) The gaming system of claim 20, wherein the signage includes a signage controller for controlling an outcome of the special payout on one of the plurality of gaming terminals.
22. (Original) The gaming system of claim 21, wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals includes a gaming terminal controller, the gaming terminal controller being in communication with the signage controller.

23. (Original) The gaming system of claim 19, wherein each of the plurality of gaming terminals are identical machines.
24. (Canceled)
25. (Previously Presented) The gaming system of claim 19, wherein the first progressive jackpot is part of a bonus game.
26. (Previously Presented) A gaming terminal for playing a wagering game, comprising:
a basic game having a plurality of symbols that indicate a randomly selected outcome of the basic game;
a basic payout;
a multi-level progressive payout with a first progressive jackpot and a second progressive jackpot; and
an input device for allowing a player to make a basic wager to play a single play of the basic game and make a separate side-wager to become eligible for the progressive payout from the single play of the basic game;
wherein, in response to the input device being activated, the gaming terminal contributes a first percentage of at least one of the wagers to the first progressive jackpot, wherein the first progressive jackpot has a value of at least a first reserve amount and contributes a second percentage of at least one of the wagers to the second progressive jackpot, wherein the second progressive jackpot has a value of at least a second reserve amount, the second reserve amount being higher than the first reserve amount and the second percentage being higher than the first percentage; and
wherein, in response to receiving a side-wager, the gaming terminal only credits the player the first progressive jackpot when a first randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game and only credits the player the second progressive jackpot when a second randomly selected outcome occurs in the single play of the basic game.

27. (Previously Presented) The gaming terminal of claim 26, wherein in response to receiving a side-wager, the gaming terminal only awards the player a third payout when a third randomly selected outcome is achieved in the single play of the basic game.